



## **A Wider Perspective on Baltimore: Mayor Rawlings-Blake and Her City Hall Leadership Team**

The Mayoral Fellows learned a great deal about Baltimore in their first two weeks with the Mayor's office. In week one, they met with Deputy Mayors Kaliope Parthemos and Christopher Thomaskutty, Special Advisor Kimberly Washington and Chief of Staff Peter O'Malley. Together, they learned how and why the Mayor's leadership team became involved in public service and the basic structure of city government. In their second Speaker's Series luncheon, the Fellows sat down for an intimate lunch with Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake and learned what she is doing to make Charm City even more charming.

Violent crime in Baltimore has been on the decline for the last two decades. This was accomplished despite a shrinking budget while making fewer arrests. Deputy Mayor Thomaskutty and Chief of Staff O'Malley described the success of implementing solutions to decrease the crime rate to the Fellows in their first week with the Mayor's Office. This candid discussion enriched the fellow's understanding and widened their perspective on Charm City.

The conversation with the leadership team was filled with information, jokes and wise advice. Mayoral Fellow Marquett Burton remembers,

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## Q&A With Mayoral Fellow Alumnus Brian Greenan



**Name:** Brian Greenan

**Hometown:** The Jersey Shore

**Degrees:** BS Journalism, Ball State University

MA Latin American Affairs, UMBC

**Fellowship Class:** 2004

**Fellowship Placement:** Former Office of Homeless Services

**Where is he now?** Westside Coordinator in the Mayor's Office of Economic and Neighborhood Development

Brian Greenan, a 2004 Mayoral Fellow joined the Mayor's Office this month as the new Westside Project Coordinator. Here, he shares his thoughts about how the Baltimore City Mayoral Fellowship contributed to his career and his advice to the new Mayoral Fellows of 2011:

### **What led you to participate in the BCMF?**

I wanted to take the opportunity to serve under Martin O'Malley's Administration. He was a leading voice in progressive local government.

### **What was the best thing about the Fellowship?**

Exposure to City government and the opportunity to work on urban policy issues were the things I valued most. Working on the ground level to expand services to our most vulnerable population really helped me see what City government could accomplish.

### **What were you able to accomplish in the course of the summer?**

I was able to do some modest fundraising and marketing for the Office of Homeless Services. We were just launching the Journey Home Campaign. It's exciting to see that seven years later, it is still in place.

### **How has the Fellowship contributed to your career?**

The Fellowship opened opportunities for me. I was able to get my previous job through connections and the reputation of the Fellowship. In my current role, I work in the office that oversees the fellowship and in fact work with a Fellowship classmate.

### **What are the most important things you learned through the Fellowship?**

- Follow through on action items.
- Don't think but be thoughtful in every decision you make.
- Pick up the phone rather than send an email.
- See colleagues in person whenever possible.

### **What advice can you give to current Mayoral Fellows?**

Try to get invited to any event you can go to. This will give you exposure and opportunity to see how decision makers run their shops and most of all access to them. .

### **What makes Baltimore City exciting?**

This city has many neighborhoods and sites that are well kept secrets, and others that are not yet destinations but have dedicated people working to make them destinations. It's rough around the edges. It's a real place with real challenges.

### **Are there any additional thoughts you would like to share?**

You have ten weeks here. Maximize and don't waste the opportunity.





# Featured Fellows

## Marquett Davon Burton



Intending to undertake a career in criminal law, Marquett Burton decided to serve an internship at Wiley Manual Courthouse during his senior year at the University of California, Berkeley. As a political science major, he was familiar with the perception that black men account for nearly half the prison population in the United States. However, as a pre-trial services intern in Oakland, California he saw the faces to match the statistics.

As a 21-year-old black man he found it unsettling to look through bulletproof glass at a young man four years his junior. Each day of his internship, he found himself looking at 18-year-old black boys in jumpsuits and chains. He thought, *wow I was thinking about moving into a dormitory and being free of my mother when I was 18.* The black males he was looking at were in their youth, a time when one desires freedom, yet they were facing the possibility of spending vital years of their life trapped in a concrete box.

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## Patrick Terranova



Patrick Terranova is spending this summer working with the Office of Economic and Neighborhood Development on a street vendors licensing project. With recent adjustments in city vending policies being made in response to the needs of Baltimore's small but burgeoning food truck industry, the City is revisiting its policies on how to approach the issue of street vending in the city. Among his tasks for the summer are a complete review of Baltimore's current policies, the exploration into the creation of vending zones to locate vendors, an overview of other cities' practices, updating the Vendors Board's Rules and Regulations, and facilitating active conversations between both the different city agencies involved in the permitting and enforcement process and the vendors themselves. He ultimately hopes to combine creative ideas with common sense measures to help maintain a system that makes sense, encouraging both vibrant street business and a sense of order.

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Mayoral Fellow John David Evans is spending this summer helping the Department of Public Works with the creation of an incentive program to better involve Baltimore communities in the stormwater management process. "This project is an excellent fit for my interests and experience. It really brings my work in development and construction together with my training in policy and environmental protection," he says. The management of stormwater is of increasingly serious concern in Baltimore and around the country. Urban runoff causes erosion and flooding and carries high levels of pollutants into the Inner Harbor and the Chesapeake Bay. To bring these local treasures back to the water quality they deserve, better ways to mitigate stormwater runoff must be found.

Especially important to Mr. Evans is the project's focus on community participation. While properly managing stormwater will require agency-led infrastructure upgrades, it cannot be done without community support. Finding ways to partner with community organizations is essential to popular support for new stormwater initiatives, and

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## Mayor's Office Spotlight



## Office of Economic and Neighborhood Development

The Mayor's Office of Economic and Neighborhood Development (END) aims to help the city's businesses and neighborhoods thrive. Headed by Deputy Mayor Kaliope Parthemos, the office works in conjunction with several other city agencies involved with economic development projects. These agencies include Baltimore Development Corporation, the Department of Transportations, Department of Housing and Community Development. Included in its oversight and collaboration with these agencies are the following current roles: promoting the "Vacants to Value" housing re-investment program, developing an on-line "one-stop-shop" for all the resources small businesses may need in getting off the ground, and exploring how to best address the emergence of gourmet food trucks in the city and the resulting response from brick-and-mortar establishments. In short, the office's goal is to promote economic growth in the city through policy, special events, development projects, and business ventures, while maintaining a real concern for ensuring that the benefits reach residents of the city's communities.



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“Deputy Mayor Thomaskutty imparted two very important ideas: one, that one should work for someone who views developing your skills as part of their job; two, that one should focus their career on something they really care about, something that really moves them!”

In week two, the Fellows found themselves having lunch with Baltimore’s mayor, Stephanie Rawlings-Blake. In this intimate setting the Fellows were able to speak with the Mayor about her vision for Baltimore and the progress that has been made in making Baltimore Better, Safer, Stronger. In addition, the Fellows received an overview of Baltimore’s Grand Prix and learned how this event will enrich Baltimore’s tourism and neighborhoods. Deputy Mayor Parthemos addressed questions from the Fellows on how funds generated will be dispersed in city neighborhoods and what job opportunities there are for residents.

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Patrick is a graduate of La Salle University with Bachelor's degrees in Sociology and Public Administration. He will begin studies as a Masters Candidate and Graduate Research Assistant at Georgia Tech's School of City and Regional Planning this coming fall, specializing in Land, Community, and Economic Development. Among his passions are the Olympic Games and the urban development plans and community concerns that erupt in candidate cities. Having studied the issue in depth while abroad in Rome (focusing on the Rome 1960 Games) and during his tenure in the Chicago Mayor's Office as

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Having a deep interest in educating students for success in life, Mr. Burton has found the ideal placement in the Mayoral Fellowship Program. He is able to use his skills and experience to assist Baltimore City Public Schools with their re-organization. Additionally, he is able learn about the district and the moves it is making to support schools.

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important to their maintenance. Evans sees community involvement as “both socially desirable and practically necessary.”

Evans initially came to Baltimore for a one year Americorps assignment with Habitat for Humanity, but that year stretched into two, and now two into seven. The city’s cultural charm and rich history have led him to stay; now he calls the city home. After a stint with Habitat in India, he returned to work for a contractor in the city, and then went on for a master’s degree in public policy and international development at the University of Maryland. “Whether I go on to apply them at home in Baltimore or in a developing country context, the lessons I’m learning about community involvement in policy formation will be invaluable to my success.”



## UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE 29th

Speaker Series: Criminal Justice in Baltimore

JULY 6th

Speaker Series: Tour of Homeless Resource Center followed by panel discussion hosted by Healthcare for the Homeless

JULY 8th

Police Ride-alongs



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